REMARKS

Claims 4 and 14 have been amended. Claims 1-30 remain pending in this application.

Claims 3, 6-8, 16-18, 23 and 27-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9-15, 19-22, and 24-26, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,219,417 *(Zhou)*. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 5 is discussed first. Claim 5, among other things, calls for determining a value proportional to a power of the AC component of the received signal over at least a portion of the period of the AC component. The Examiner argues that this feature is taught at col. 5 through col. 6 of Zhou. The cited passage, however, makes no mention of determining a value proportional to a power of the AC component of the received signal. Instead, the cited text simply describes that ringing signals (internal or external) can be applied to the subscriber loops. Claim 5 further calls for performing a function of a line card in response to determining the value proportional to the power of the AC component. Because *Zhou* fails to teach "determining a value proportional to a power," it also does not teach performing a function of a line card in response to making such a determination. Thus, for at least these reasons, claim 5 and its dependent claims are allowable. Moreover, independent claims 15 and 21 (and their respective dependent claims) are also allowable for similar reasons presented above.

Claim 1 is also allowable over **Zhou**. Claim 1, among other things, calls for receiving at least a portion of the transmitted signal from the subscriber line, and further calls for determining at least a portion of <u>a period of the AC component</u> based on the received signal. The specification describes, and as claimed in an dependent claim (namely claim 4), one manner of determining the period of the AC component is to use the zero-crossing technique. Claim 1 further calls for performing an act (*e.g.,* ring-trip detection or AC fault detection) of a line card in response to determining the above mentioned value.

Zhou is directed to a method and apparatus for ring trip detection in a communication system. The Examiner asserts that text at col. 5, lines 6-35 and col. 9, lines 11-49 of **Zhou** teaches features of claims 1 and 5. *See,* pages 2-3 of the Office Action. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As noted, claim 1 calls for determining at least a portion of <u>a period</u> of the AC component based on the signal received from the subscriber line. This feature is not taught or suggested in **Zhou**. While **Zhou** discloses utilizing zero-crossing to disconnect the ringing signal (*see* col. 9, lines 48-49; col. 9, lines 21-24) , it does not teach or suggest determining <u>the period</u> of the AC component based on the received signal. Moreover, **Zhou** also fails to teach the next claimed feature of "performing a function of a line card in response to determining at least the portion of the period of the AC component." For at least these reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable. Moreover, independent claims 11 and 26 (and any claims depending therefrom) are allowable for similar reasons presented above.
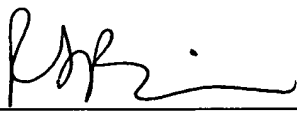
Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

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If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 934-4064 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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